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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CANBER 04380 070911Z

11
ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 MC-02 AEC-11 SCI-06 IO-13 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /129 W
---------- 023145
R 070900Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1457
INFO DOD WASHDC
CSAF WASHDC
CINCPAC HI

S E C R E T CANBERRA 4380

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PARM, PINR, AS
SUBJ: MEDIA REQUEST TO VISIT USAF INSTALLATION AT
AMBERLEY
REF: STATE 151580

1. WILLIAM PRITCHITT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, AUSTRALIAN
DEPT OF DEFENSE, INFORMED EMBASSY THAT HE HAD JUST RE-
CEIVED MESSAGE FROM AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON RE-
PORTING USG POSITION ON ABC REQUEST TO VISIT AMBERLEY
INSTALLATION. ACCORDING TO PRITCHITT, USG WAS OPPOSED TO
VISIT ON GROUNDS THAT PRESENT TIMING JUST AFTER TOOHEY
ARTICLE WOULD TEND TO STIMULATE RATHER THAN SUBDUE PUBLIC
ATTENTION TO US FACILITIES. PRITCHITT UNDERSTOOD USG
WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEDE TO MEDIA VISIT AT MORE PROPITIOUS TIME.

2. PRITCHITT DISAGREED STRONGLY WITH THIS ANALYSIS. HE
BELIEVES THAT REFUSAL OF MEDIA REQUEST MIGHT
STIR UP PUBLIC ATTENTION AND WOULD ALSO APPEAR TO CONFIRM
THE VERY POINT TOOHEY WAS MAKING, THAT AMBERLEY IN
FACT HAS PURPOSES QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THOS PUBLICLY
DESCRIBED BY DEFMIN BARNARD AND PRIMIN WHITLAM. IN
OTHE WORDS, A NEGATIVE RESPONSE WILL ENCOURAGE
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SUSPICIONS.

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3. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER PRITCHITT HAD CONSULTED
WITH COLLEAGUES OR WAS PASSING ON HIS PERSONAL REACTION.
HE ANTICIPATED THAT INSTRUCTIONS WOUD BE SENT TO
PLIMSOLL TAKING FIRM EXCEPTION TO USG POSITION. PRITCHITT
IS ALSO CONCERNED THAT EXTENSIVE DELAY IN REPLYING TO
ABC CAN CAUSE SOME OF THE SAME UNDESIRABLE INTERPRETATIONS
AS WOULD A NEGATIVE RESPONSE.

4. BELIEVE CASE CAN BE MADE FOR APPROVAL OF VISIT AT
THIS TIME. MISSION IS REVIEWING PROBLEM IN DETAIL AND
WILL TRANSMIT VIEWS BY SEPTEL.
HARROP

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS, VISITS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER04380
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS HARROP
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730854/aaaabnoc.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 151580
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Oct-2001 by eisnerah>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REQUEST TO VISIT USAF INSTALLATION AT AMBERLEY
TAGS: MARR, PARM, PINR, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
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